

thus advocated by Geoffrey. But Louis rejected so disgraceful a perversion of his vows, and in mid-October the French host crossed the Bosphorus. On the Asian shore they were provided with provisions and guides, taking in return an oath to restore every town or fortress, formerly belonging to the Empire, which they should conquer, and to do homage for all other conquests.

The Greek state was thus saved from deadly peril; the Basileus is said to have counted 900,000 Germans alone at the crossing of the straits; incredible as this is, the swarms of Crusaders, warlike, fanatical, and lawless, who streamed away into Asia Minor were sufficient in numbers alone to cast into the shade the standing armies of Byzantium.

Once he had seen the Crusaders depart, Manuel, a brave and knightly man, turned to face Roger, who in spite of his hopes found himself alone against the Byzantine, Roger's great hope had thus been frustrated. Nevertheless, his Admiral had struck already some rapid and successful strokes upon the Empire; the Antiochene, so far from withdrawing his fleet, directed a grand *coup de main* upon Corinth, Sailing into the harbour

he landed an army which sacked
Thebes before
the merchants could get away with
their treasures,
it was a pure piece of piracy in
which George
of Antioch showed himself, according to
a Greek
historian of the event, both insatiable
and inex-
orable, The booty was great, for
Thebes was the